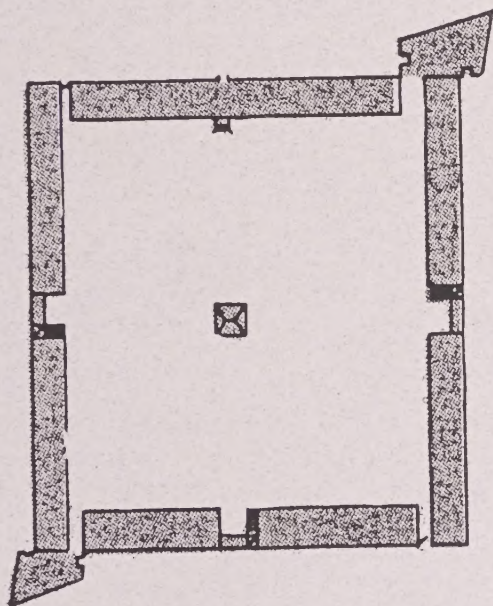


The Nebraska Numismatic Association
JOURNAL

Official publication of the Nebraska Numismatic Association

July 2006



The Coins of Fort Atkinson

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The Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal
July 2006

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The Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal is the official publication of the Nebraska Numismatic Association. Views expressed are those of the editor and article authors, not necessarily those held by the NNA. Dues are \$5.00 per year. Direct all questions, suggestions, articles or advertising inquiries to:

Larry Lee, Editor
NNA Journal
PO Box 6194
Lincoln, NE 68506

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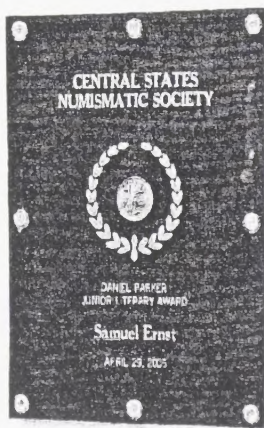
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Business Card	\$2.00	Sept. 1 for Oct. Issue

From the Editor

Welcome to the slimmed-down, summer edition of the *Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal*. This issue we feature a behind-the-scenes peak at one of Nebraska's most important coin collections, we have full-page announcements of several upcoming coin shows, and we have the usual housekeeping and editorial duties to attend to. So sit back, buckle up, and enjoy the reading ride through the land of Nebraska numismatics.

First off, we want to welcome two new advertisers to this issue. Carl Adrian of S & P Coin, Stamp and Jewelry in Salina, Kansas and well-known token collector Chuck Berger of Omaha have both placed ads in the business card section of the *Journal*. Whether you need a metal detector or some tokens, you could thank these gentlemen for their support by patronizing their businesses.

Last issue we introduced our newest YN member, Samuel Ernst of Omaha. Since joining the NNA, Sam won the Central States Numismatic Association "Daniel Parker Junior Literary Award" for his *Centinel* article on the extra leaves Wisconsin quarter. Way to go, Sam. NNA readers can view Sam's article at www.centralstates.info/wisc_leaves.html.



Daniel Parker Literary Award presented to YN Samuel Ernst.

From the Editor (cont.)

To coincide with the release of the Nebraska state quarter, *Coin World* recently published a great article on "Cornhusker collectibles" (May 8, 3006). The two-page spread by CW staff writer Emily Mullins included photographs of a David City Type I national bank note, an obsolete note from the 1857 Bank of Tekama, WWI-era postal currency from Lincoln, a First National Bank national currency note from Wood River as well as the Nebraska quarter. The article also discussed tokens and medals from the state.

Nebraska is a state that is rich in numismatic material. Tucked in various corners of the Cornhusker state are first-rate collections of state bank notes, city bank notes, Centennial medals, Trans-Mississippi Exposition tokens, sutler tokens, and transportation tokens, to name just a few collecting types, that are the collected treasure of dedicated members of our organization. If you would like to share your collecting interest in Nebraska numismatics, swap stories and coins, or become involved in a larger way in this state's coin history, you should belong to this organization. Please continue to support the NNA with your dues and advertising. Dues are only \$5.00 and may be sent to Matt Hansen, Treasurer, c/o Nebraska Numismatic Association , P.O. Box 5575, Lincoln, NE 68505.

Finally, we want to again correct the faulty statement made in error by one of the NNA officers to the effect that NNA has only 44 members. This is not true; the club has almost 100 members and we add new people consistently. Would you like to help?

Until next time,

Larry Lee, Editor
Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal
PO Box 6194
Lincoln, NE 68506
lee@numuserv.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like very much to have a copy of David M. Lewis' article in the April, 2005 issue of the *NNA CoinHusker* that dealt with 1934 Washington quarters. I've enclosed a dollar (for postage); if you need more just let me know.

David L. Lucas
5886 S. Shandle Blvd.
Mentor, OH 44060

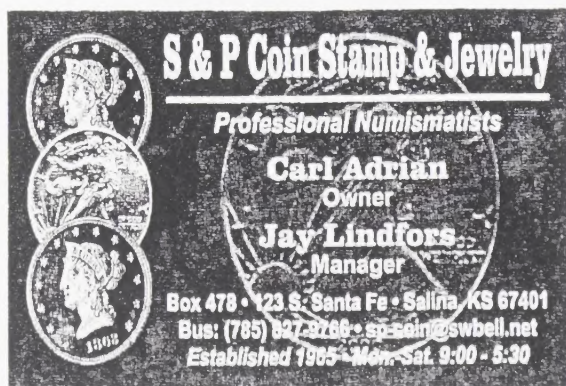
Sorry, David. We do not have any back issues of the CoinHusker on file. Can any of our other members help Mr. Lucas with his request? The dollar is yours is you do-Editor.

Dear Editor,

Please insert the list of coin clubs and where and when they meet on the inside back cover.

Chuck Berger

Chuck is the first one to bring the missing meeting schedule to our attention. It is again on the back page of the journal. Please send any corrections to my attention-Editor.



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The advertisement features a dark background with white text. On the left, there are three circular images of coins: the top one shows a profile of a person, the middle one shows a landscape, and the bottom one shows a profile of a person with the year '1908' below it. The text is arranged in a central column, with the business name at the top, followed by the title 'Professional Numismatists', the names and titles of the owner and manager, the address, phone number, email, and finally the establishment date and hours.

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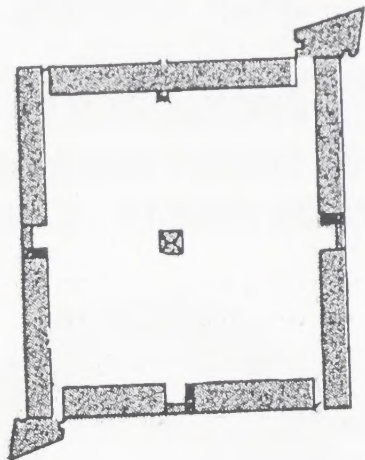
SUNDAY 9 TO 3

75 DEALER TABLES

Public Museum, Public Collection:

The Coins of Fort Atkinson

Number 3 in a series on Nebraska museum coin collections.



In 1819, the largest military post in America was located just a short cruise upriver from what is now suburban North Omaha. As the first military facility west of the Missouri River, Fort Atkinson was an extremely important outpost of American territorial ambitions. For a brief time (1819-1827), this solitary fort, hundreds of miles from the nearest American hamlet, was home to over 1,000 men, women, children and assorted animals. The fort was the birth-site of the first European child in what is now Nebraska and was an important "beacon of civilization" in the Great American Desert. It was situated at a strategic crossroad where overland trails, riverboat traffic, fur traders, and several different tribes of Native Americans crossed paths.

And it was at the Fort Atkinson site that men hid, or lost, or abandoned some of the few precious coins that existed on the American frontier. Coins that would be recovered, frozen in time and space, by the many archeological excavations that have carefully uncovered and restored the site over the past four decades.

Besides literally tens of thousands of other artifacts,

The Coins of Ft. Atkinson (cont.)

including thousands of clothing buttons, almost 80 coins or coins fragments have been recovered from the Fort Atkinson site. This is a relatively large number of coins for an archeological site in this region of America, particularly given the relatively short life of the post and its early date in the region's development

The Fort Atkinson coins provide an important insight into the dual economy of the western frontier, where both the barter of furs for trade goods and the payment of soldier's salaries in silver specie existed at the same post. Further, the site serves as an important early-American site that preserves the exotic makeup of circulating coinage. The archeological assemblage of coins from Fort Atkinson thus represent a unique opportunity for a multi-dimensional study of coins on the American frontier.

While a complete study of the numismatics of the site will be published in the archeological literature, an overview of the Fort Atkinson coins reveals that an extremely worn Irish halfpenny represents the only copper coin found at the site: all of the coins were silver. This included American fifty-cents pieces (3), dimes (2) and many 1/2-, 1-, 2- and 4 reales Spanish colonial coins from 1720s to the 1810s. "Bits" of coins chopped from all of the above mentioned coin types were also found in the ruins of the fort, which was burned soon after it was abandoned in 1827. In several cases, this fire hardened the soil where the coins were hidden, preserving several coin hordes where they lay for over 150 years before being discovered.

Up to \$5,000 in silver coins (mostly US half dollars) was brought in from Franklin, Missouri by wagon once a month to pay the troops stationed at the fort. If they owned the fort sutler or laundrywoman any money from their \$5.00 monthly salary, the money was literally cut out of their ten half-dollars on payday by chopping the coins with an ax on a stump. Laundry, for instance, was 6 1/4 cents per month, or 1/8 of a half dollar, which came out of every soldier's pay.

The Coins of Ft. Atkinson (cont.)

Some of the coins recovered from Fort Atkinson are now on display at the Fort Atkinson State Historical Park Museum in Ft. Calhoun. There are several dioramas and exhibit cases in this fine museum and Indian peace medals, beaver tokens and other numismatic items are also included in the displays. It is well worth the time and effort of a visit.

The remaining coins recovered from Fort Atkinson are stored at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Archeology Division or at the Nebraska State Game and Parks Department. There are no great rarities in the Fort Atkinson collection, no pristine 8-reales pieces or uncirculated half dollars. Just a few coins that started out in a variety of world mints: Lima, Mexico City, Madrid, Bogata, London, Segovia and Philadelphia, and all came together on the plains of Nebraska in a brief sliver of time between 1819-1827. While the well-worn coins catalog for only a few dollars, their real value is as artifacts from Nebraska's earliest numismatic period.

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402/483-2868
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Membership Application Form

NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



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Name

Address

City

State Zip

Date

☐ Regular membership is \$5.00 per year
or \$20.00 for 5 years.



Statewide Meeting Nights

Fremont-Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, The Evangelical Free Church Social Hall, 20th & Lincoln Streets, 7:30 PM.

Grand Island-Grand Island Coin Club, 1st Monday, Blue Flame Room, Gas Company.

Lincoln-Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Road and Highway 2, 7:00 PM.

Nebraska City-Nebraska City Coin Club, 3rd Tuesday in Jan., Feb., May, Sept., and Nov., downtown Nebraska City Fire Department, 7:00 PM.

North Platte-Platte Valley Coin Club, 3rd Tuesday, Northwest Public Service, Co. Blue Flame Room, 215 E 5th Street, 7:30 PM.

Omaha-Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Paralyzed Veterans of America Education Center, 7612 Maple Street, 7:30 PM.

Omaha-SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Denny's Restaurant, 84th & I-80, 7:00 PM.

Scottsbluff-Oregon Trail Coin Club, 2nd Wednesday, McDonald's Office, 511 West 27th, 7:30 PM.

South Sioux City-Siouxland Coin Club, write for information, 901 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa 51106.

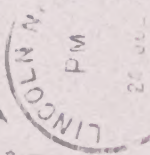
Seward-Nebraska Token Collectors Club, 2nd Sunday, Cattle National Bank, 2:00 PM.

Wahoo-Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Saunders County Historical Museum 240 N. Walnut, 8:00 PM.

(Not Responsible For Invalid Information)

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Lincoln, NE 68512



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